

DMW Written Representation (978 words)

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I am strongly against the Mallard Pass proposal to construct and operate a vast solar site on the high quality farmland around our local area of Greatford. Many more solar panels than today could be placed on warehouses, brownfield sites and along the sides of railway tracks. It seems that very little investigation into power from our tides has taken place. The tides have always been with us and always will be – a natural source of constant movement which can be used to create much electricity.

My concerns are about the misuse of:

- a. High quality productive farmland.
- b. The loss of scenic local countryside and the effect on wildlife.
- c. Increased flooding
- d. Damage to archaeological remains under the land surface

Productive Farmland & Scenic Local Countryside

1. The wrecking of good grade productive farmland would be an absolutely wanton decision in this successful food producing part of Lincolnshire, something that the people of this country would in a short time come to bitterly regret. Food production of food from this county for both animals and humans has been one of its mainstays for centuries. As the proposed site is so vast, the consequences of the change of use from farmland to the production of a relatively small amount of electricity produced from ugly solar panels would be with us for decades. The loss of the food which could have been grown would be sorely felt.

2. Decades later when the solar panels would have come to the end of their life, we would be left with a huge desert of useless compacted land covered in hideous manmade junk – solar panels originally made using Uighur slave labour. Is this supposed to be a success story? It would show that human beings had gone completely crazy to allow such a dire situation to occur. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said he is against solar panels on productive farmland and this mad project goes completely against his policy and the associated effect on local residents who currently enjoy the wonderful visual landscape and its use for feeding the country, and using it for leisure, walking, horse-riding and for the local wildlife to roam freely. Take our wild deer (shown in a photo below on the edge of Greatford). Their lives would be completely changed from its natural patterns to having to exist with confining corridors surrounded by high fencing, forcing them into an existence which would terrify them and go against all the rules of nature and wildness.

3. These photographs were taken along the bridleway which bisects a main part of the proposed solar site near our village of Greatford, showing the beauty of harvest time here and the vistas in all directions.



1.The bridleway which dissects the proposed Mallard Pass solar site north to south. Seen here approaching a copse across the good quality agricultural land proposed for the Mallard Pass solar site. 4 June 2022 (008)



2.A rider from Uffington stables on the bridleway, passing the copse.



3.Crops across open countryside each side of the bridleway. 4 June 2022



4.Healthy green crop alongside the bridleway. 4 June 2022



5. Harvesting on each side of the bridleway. 30 July 2022



6. View from the bridleway cereal crop already harvested, across the rolling land towards Essendine just beyond the top left corner. 30 July 2022



7. More of the area already harvested in the direction towards Carlby. 30 July 2022



7. Crop alongside the bridleway already harvested. 30 July 2022



9. The herd of deer which roams the area freely is a common sight, but they would be restricted in their natural pattern by the terrifying metal corridors across the solar site (in the snow near Greatford Feb 2018)

This is the land where English people have lived, worked, thrived, and enjoyed it for centuries. All this could be lost for ever within a few years should this ill-conceived commercial project be allowed to proceed.

Is this what we want to pass on to the following generations and for them to accuse their forbears of being wreckers of their heritage?

Increased Flooding

We who live in this area already have a well-documented and long-standing issue of local flooding, which is a periodic occurrence. If the Mallard Pass project were to go ahead there is no doubt that the already considerable local flooding would be more severe and with greater frequency. I live in Greatford and my husband, Chris Granville-White has been our Flood Warden for ten years. More serious flooding would occur with the addition of half a million solar panels, together with the serious soil compaction from the two-year construction phase followed by up to forty years of operation, then de-commissioning.

The issue of flooding is recognised by the Environment Agency and they have, since 2013, been considering what measures should be taken to alleviate the situation. However they do not currently have funds available to reinstate eroded river banks or to construct a flood-risk reduction concept which was designed in 2013 as a water-storage area upstream of Greatford at an estimated cost (then) of £1k. as it did not satisfy the cost-benefit figure for such a scheme. (See also the information from Phil Britton, Chairman of Greatford Parish Council on the effects of compacted soil.)

Archaeology in the Area

One more objection to the proposed Mallard Pass scheme is that our local area is known to be a site of historic archaeological interest.

By the porch in our church at Greatford, there is a Roman stone coffin which was found many years ago under land at the farmland alongside Carlby Road The human remains which were found inside are now in a local museum. It is likely that many other historic

artefacts still lie under the soil to which any violent earth movement could cause irreparable damage.



Roman Coffin Outside Greatford Church

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